

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

MAY 15 2008

SINCE 1877

MAY 8, 2008

VOL. 132

NO. 19



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Mississippians to lead SBC meeting

INDIANAPOLIS (BP and local reports) — Fulfilling the mission Christ gave His followers — bringing lost souls into God's Kingdom — will be the focus of the 151st session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) when it convenes June 10-11 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, and a host of Mississippi Baptists will be in the forefront.

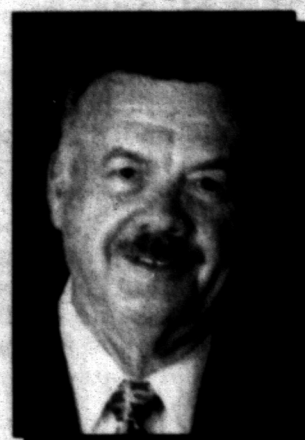
Leading congregational praise and worship for this year's annual meeting of Southern Baptists will be Convention Music Director L. Lavon Gray, minister of music and worship at First Church in Jackson.

L. Graham Smith, director of church music for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson, will lead congregational praise and worship during the June 11 morning session.



Gray

Wade Steelman, director of the X-tended Missions Network in Hernando, will offer the opening prayer at the June 10 evening session.



Smith

Mississippi native Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., will present the IMB to messengers during the June 11 evening session.

Also scheduled to appear at the Indianapolis meeting are:

- the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra, directed by David Young, instrumental consultant for the MBCB Church Music Department. The Orchestra will perform during the June 11 morning and evening sessions.
- the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra of First Church, Jackson, during the June 10 afternoon session and June 11 evening sessions.
- the Worship Team and Band of First Church, Jackson, during the June 10 evening session.

"One of the great honors as a minister of music is to be selected as Convention Music Director for the Southern Baptist Convention," Gray said. "My responsibilities include planning and coordinating all aspects of music for the annual meeting, such as congregational singing, choirs and the appearance of special guest artists."

"We have an incredible lineup that includes concerts by the Gaither Vocal Band, Charles Billingsley, and Mark Harris. The music for the convention will represent a wide range of musical styles, and promises to be a truly meaningful time of worship."

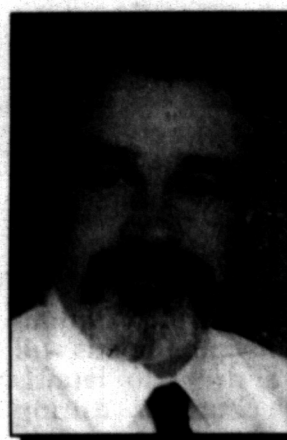
The meeting will extend a theme of spiritual awakening that has characterized the tenure of Frank Page as SBC president, pressing on to the evangelistic outreach that flows naturally from renewal.

"The motivation and power for evangelism arises out of spiritual awakening," said Page, who is completing his second term as SBC president. "I keep going back to Acts 1:8, which says, 'When the Holy Spirit comes, you shall receive power.' And when we have been stirred by God's spirit, we reach out to the lost and God draws people to Himself."

That's why Page said he selected Acts 2:47b as the watchword for the gathering: "And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved" (HCSB).

"The recent report of a decline in baptisms and membership in the Southern Baptist Convention re-emphasizes that for too long we have been attempting to raise baptisms among non-revived people in non-revived churches," Page said. "The lack of connection with lost people and the lack of urgency for soul-winning and personal evangelism is a direct indication of our lack of spiritual passion and love for the lost."

"Even when there is a love and a concern for the lost, sometimes we have a total disconnect with the culture in which we live," Page added. "Many of our people simply do not know how to relate to people in 21st-century culture



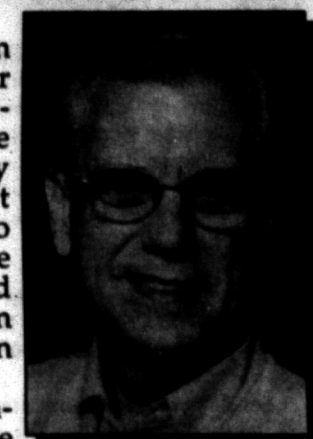
Steelman

and have been frustrated at their inability to communicate the Gospel. Many believers do not know people who are outside the Kingdom and often do not even know their own neighbors."

Under the banner of Fulfilling the Mission, Southern Baptist leaders will introduce a multifaceted long-term strategy for helping churches evangelize their neighborhoods, states, country and world. The 10-year National Evangelism Initiative was a priority Page set for his time in office when he was elected in Greensboro, N.C., in 2006.

"The moment I was elected, I knew I wanted to encourage a continent-wide evangelism strategy," Page said. "A large number of people have been saying to us, 'Don't just tell us what to do, but show us how to do it.' So I approached the North American Mission Board and they have worked with our state and associational partners to come forward with a strategy that will help us know both what to do and how to do it."

Unlike some programs that drop a big box of material on the desk and leave it to the pastor to figure out whether it can be implemented in his church and how to



Rankin

See SBC, page 2



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VOLUME 132 • NUMBER 19
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

The racists in our midst

Actor: I want to specify that abortion to help a minority group, would that be possible?

Planned Parenthood: Absolutely.

Actor: Like the black community for example?

Planned Parenthood: Certainly.

Actor: The abortion — I can give money specifically for a black baby, that would be the purpose?

Planned Parenthood: Absolutely. If you wanted to designate that your gift be used to help an African-American woman in need,

then we would certainly make sure that the gift was earmarked for that purpose.

Actor: Great, because I really faced trouble with affirmative action, and I don't want my kids to be disadvantaged against black kids. I just had a baby; I want to put it in his name.

Planned Parenthood: Yes, absolutely.

Actor: And we don't, you know we just think, the less black kids out there the better.

Planned Parenthood: (Laughs) Understandable, understandable.

Actor: Right. I want to protect my son, so he can get into college.

Planned Parenthood: All right. Excuse my hesitation; this is the first time I've had a donor call and make this kind of request, so I'm

excited, and want to make sure I don't leave anything out.

That transcript is from a telephone call made earlier this year to a Planned Parenthood office by an actor working for a student journalist at a pro-life magazine distributed on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles. The journalist, Lila Rose, made several calls to Planned Parenthood offices around the country, and exposed the organization's racism and greed nearly every time.

What's that, you say? You didn't read about this in the major news media? Likewise, you probably didn't get to read about the large group of pro-life African-American pastors who protested Planned Parenthood's racism outside the organization's national headquarters in Washington, D.C., after they learned the results of Lila Rose's undercover investigation.

Read it here, then: Planned Parenthood, the recipient of more than \$200 million annually in federal government funding, is a racist organization and has been since its earliest days. No rational person who has studied the history of Planned Parenthood can believe otherwise. Its founder was a rabid racist by the name of Margaret Sanger, who coined the word "eugenics" to explain her philosophy that lesser forms of mankind like Negroes should not be allowed to proliferate beyond control.

"We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro popula-

tion," she famously wrote in 1939 — the same year she began her Negro Project.

Lila Rose's 2008 telephone inquiries would indicate Planned Parenthood, the most prolific abortion provider in the country, hasn't changed its philosophy in the nearly 70 years since Sanger forthrightly proclaimed the organization's mission.

Of course, Planned Parenthood argues that their beloved founder is being quoted out of context, and that at any rate the organization is no longer under the control of Sanger, who died in 1966.

Really? If Planned Parenthood has changed its ways, why is it that the organization locates nearly 80% of its "clinics" today in minority neighborhoods? Why are 35% of all abortions in this country performed on African-Americans, who comprise only 13% of the population? Why do half of all African-American pregnancies end in abortions? (Statistics courtesy of the Idaho Values Alliance.)

The secular news media don't have the courage to tell us this story. Most (but certainly not all) politicians are afraid to take on this issue. Judges cringe. Church members are uncomfortable even talking about it. The general population yawns.

Saddest of all, many Christians have turned away as fifty million of our brothers and sisters of all races have been slaughtered in the womb as if they are a pestilence.

SBC

do it, the National Evangelism Initiative will offer a menu of strategies in four areas: praying, engaging, sowing and harvesting. Page said. Churches will be able to pick and choose strategies that will work in their unique contexts.

"There will be many elements produced so churches of all sizes and all ethnic backgrounds in all areas of the continent can take part," Page said. "They will be able to pick and choose from various strategies, tools and emphases. It will be very flexible."

"Of all the things that could come out of the meeting in Indianapolis, the greatest for our continent would be that we come away with a common direction in presenting a very positive, life-transforming message about Christ."

Among the other highlights of the annual meeting:

- Block parties in 27 ethnically mixed neighborhoods will spearhead a drive to launch eight new churches during Crossover '08, the citywide evangelistic campaign set for June 6-7. "I want to encourage Southern Baptists to be part of Crossover," Page said. "I will be out sharing Christ on Saturday and hope hundreds, if not thousands, will join us in that great evangelistic opportunity." For more information on Crossover '08, visit www.crossover08.com.

- Messengers to the annual meeting will hear challenges from Leo A. Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention in Rochester, Minn.; Rob Blackaby, president of the

Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta; and Forrest Pollock, senior pastor of Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, Fla.

- An intensified focus on prayer will be another feature of the convention. In addition to the prayer room, signs will be posted around the convention center to help messengers make a "prayer journey" for the annual meeting.

A virtual prayerwalk will be available at www.crossover08.com for people who can't attend the convention. Information for those interested in volunteering to intercede for the annual meeting is available on that site as well.

- The North American Mission Board report and presentation is scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 10, and the International Mission Board report and presentation will be Wednesday evening, June 11.

- Steve Blanchard, director of worship ministries for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, will lead the Indiana Baptist combined choirs in several performances.

- Al Gilbert, senior pastor of Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., will deliver the convention message Wednesday morning, June 11.

- The SBC Pastors' Conference will begin early — on Sunday afternoon, June 8 — to preview Fireproof (www.fireproofthemovie.com), a new movie on unconditional love and covenant marriage produced by Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga.

- The annual Ministers' Wives Luncheon will be held at noon on June 10, in the Sagamore Ballrooms 1-5 of the Indiana Convention Center. Gary Chapman will speak on the topic, How to Love a Leader. Registration information is available at www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

- Woman's Missionary Union activities will begin on the evening of June 8 at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, with a banquet featuring SBC President Frank Page as the keynote speaker. A day-long missions celebration will be held June 9 in the same hotel. Registration information for the banquet is available at www.wmu.com.

- Online registration is available at www.sbcannualmeeting.net through June 7 so messengers can avoid lines upon arriving at the convention. The website gives a church a messenger reference number form to be printed out and presented by each messenger at the registration booth in exchange for a nametag and a set of ballots.

The appropriate church-authorized representative must complete all online registrations. The traditional registration method also is available. Registration cards are available from state convention offices.

- Messengers wishing to propose resolutions must submit them at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider them. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at www.sbcannualmeeting.net

(by clicking on "resolutions").

- Shuttles will be available to and from most official SBC downtown and airport hotels. The shuttle service will be complimentary on the afternoon of June 8. Shuttle tickets will be available at the convention center information desk for \$10, with children 12 and under riding free when accompanied by parents who purchase tickets.

Hotels near the convention center that will not have shuttle service are the Canterbury, Conrad, Crowne Plaza Union Station, Embassy Suites Downtown, Hampton Inn Downtown, Homewood Suites, Hyatt Regency Capitol, Marriott Downtown, Omni Severin and Westin. The Country Inn & Suites near the airport will not have shuttle service. The remaining official SBC downtown and airport hotels will have service.

- Childcare (birth through three years) and a children's conference (ages four through 12) have been planned for the meeting, with registration information available at www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

- Students grade seven and above will be able to participate in Bible study, worship, and fellowship during the annual Centrifuge program. Registration information is available at www.lifeway.com/fuge/cfuge under "SBC Fuge."

- Guidestone Resources will sponsor a wellness walk at 6:15 a.m. on June 10, at White River State Park. Online registration is available at www.Guidestone.org/walk or www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

Religious panel presses U.S. State Dept.

WASHINGTON (BP) — A bipartisan United States commission has called for designation of the same 11 countries that it recommended last year as the world's worst violators of religious liberty, as it awaits a long-overdue response from the U.S. State Department.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released its annual report May 2, again urging U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to keep Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan as "countries of particular concern" (CPCs).

The independent panel also repeated its recommendation that Rice add Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam to the CPC list.

CPC designation is reserved for governments that have "engaged in or tolerated systematic and egregious violations of religious freedom."

Rice, however, has not designated any CPCs in 18 months. The State Department released its 2007 report in September but did not publish a CPC list. USCIRF makes CPC recommendations, but

only the secretary of state decides which countries receive such a designation.

The State Department's failure to name CPCs based on last year's report "may send the unfortunate signal that the U.S. government is not sufficiently committed" to the process established by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), USCIRF Chairman Michael Cromartie said in a May 1 letter to Rice. IRFA is the 1998 law that established USCIRF and the system of researching and reporting on global religious liberty.

USCIRF also released a "watch list" consisting of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, and Nigeria. The same seven countries were on the 2007 "watch list," which is made up of governments the commission believes require close monitoring regarding their



COMMISSION REPORTS — Richard Land (at podium), president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, gives part of the 2008 report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom as other commissioners look on during a May 2 news conference in Washington. (Photo courtesy of Bridget Kustin/USCIRF)

policies on religious freedom.

The commission made no recommendation or designation on Iraq, which was on last year's watch list. USCIRF "remains seriously concerned about religious freedom" in Iraq but will not make recommendations on that country until after its trip to the region later in May, Cromartie said during a May 2 Washington news conference at which the commission's 2008 report was released.

The commission repeated last year's disagreement with the State Department's decision in November 2006 to remove Vietnam from the CPC list, again calling it "premature." Vietnam had been a CPC in 2004 and 2005.

A USCIRF contingent traveled to Vietnam in October and found religious liberty conditions "remained mixed," commissioner Leonard Leo said at the news conference.

Conditions have improved since Vietnam received CPC designation in 2004, but such progress has "occurred alongside persistent abuses, discrimination and restrictions," such as the imprisonment of

religious adherents and "credible reports of forced renunciations of faith," Leo said.

"Since Vietnam joined the World Trade Organization in January 2007, positive religious freedom trends have not kept pace with other elements of the U.S.-Vietnamese relationship, and there has been a marked deterioration of human rights conditions overall in Vietnam," Leo told reporters. "In other words, once Vietnam achieved the WTO concession that it wanted, the government began to regress."

Commission member Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said he believes commissioners are both encouraged and discouraged at the global condition of religious freedom.

"We're encouraged because I think there is greater awareness of the problem, but that's the good news," said commission vice chairman Land at the news conference. "The bad news is that one of the reasons there's more awareness of the problem is there's a bigger problem in some parts" of the globe.

'Expelled' moves up

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Entering its third weekend, Ben Stein's movie, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, has entered the Top 15 on the all-time list for documentary films — a distinction that some say is a solid box office achievement, others say is a small feat. Associate producer Mark Mathis is among those who are pleased. The film had grossed nearly \$5.8 million through April 30, which places it at No. 14 on the all-time list. Whether *Expelled* can finish in the Top 10 all-time will be determined in the next couple weekends. The 90-minute movie (PG, thematic elements, very brief language) explores the ongoing academic, legal, and cultural battle between supporters of Darwinian evolution and Intelligent Design, which is the theory that certain features of the universe are best explained by an intelligent cause, and not by an undirected process such as natural selection. Stein interviews supporters of Intelligent Design who say they have been "expelled" — fired, shunned, or ridiculed (or all three) — from institutions for their beliefs. Focus on the Family's James Dobson and the Ethics & Religious Commission's Richard Land gave the film high marks. According to RottenTomatoes.com, a website that compiles movie reviews from various newspapers and websites, only nine percent of critics gave *Expelled* a good review. By comparison, 93% of critics gave a good review to Sicko, Moore's 2007 liberal film about America's health care system. Mathis noted *Expelled* targeted conservative religious people who, when compared to the rest of the population, rarely go to movies. "[Moore] has the tables set for him in a way that it's not set for anybody else who comes at this stuff from a conservative side," Mathis said. "Documentary film has been traditionally a liberal arena." Mathis also rejects critics who say *Expelled* is as biased in the conservative direction as Moore's films are in the liberal direction. "I would say there is a very significant difference," he said. "There is not anything in the film that you can point to and say, 'This is dishonest. This is manipulation.' You can disagree and say, 'I think that drawing a connection between Darwinian ideas and Nazi ideas is not justified.' ...People can disagree, but it's not like some other documentaries. ...We didn't just go out there and interview these people and say, 'They say they were mistreated and that's it.' We were on campuses all over the place, interviewing different people and talking to different people... Without exception, on every single campus it was acknowledged that the level of hostility toward Intelligent Design is palpable, that everybody knows about it."

Looking back

10 YEARS AGO

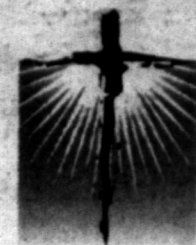
Mississippi WMU executive director-treasurer Marjean Patterson announces that she will retire in August of this year, marking the end of her 41-year career in the Mississippi Baptist women's auxiliary.

20 YEARS AGO

More than 1,000 Southern Baptists celebrate with pomp and pageantry the centennial of the Woman's Missionary Union by re-enacting the events of 100 years ago in Richmond, Va., that created the now 1.2 million member auxiliary to the SBC.

50 YEARS AGO

The buildings of the Clinton Church, Clinton, have recently been air conditioned. The sanctuary and surrounding rooms are now cooled with 65 tons of direct expansion cooling, according to Pastor Russell M. McIntire.



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BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 8, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 19

Bibliocipher

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NOE RY MCY HWE GH ELY

USYIL, NOE GH ELY

IBGCCGE, GU IW NY ELME

ELY IBGCCGE, WU KWZ

ZTYSS GH RWO. HWT GU

MHR QMH LMAY HWE ELY

IBGCCGE WU VLCGIE, LY GI

HWHY WU LGI.

CWQMHI YGKLE: HGHY

Clue: N=B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: JOHN FOUR TWENTY-FOUR



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

VBS 2008

In Baptist circles, nobody has to explain what the letters VBS stand for because it is so much a part of our church culture and such a wonderful part of our spiritual heritage. You can mention it anytime, anywhere, and people from the youngest to the oldest will know what VBS is. For me, I went to VBS before I even knew what the letters were or before I knew who I was. I went on attending VBS until I got old enough that I had a summer job and had to go to work instead of VBS. Vacation Bible School is a wonderful experience for millions of kids who attend and thousands of wonderful leaders who work during that special period of time each year.

Over the decades VBS has changed somewhat, but the substance of it has remained the same. The sounds, activities, and the intensity of it have certainly changed, but the overall mission to teach children the Bible and introduce them to a personal relationship with the living Savior remains unaltered.

I want to encourage you that if your church is going to have Vacation Bible School to make it the best you possibly can and to reach as many kids as possible. If by chance you were not planning to have VBS, rethink it. It is not too late to have a school and make an eternal difference in a lot of people's lives. In fact, if for whatever reason you thought you could not have a Vacation Bible School and you need some help, please give a call to either your associational office or to the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. We will do everything possible to support you and help you accomplish what is a tremen-



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Directions

dous ministry that will bring great blessings to your life and your church. While everybody knows that VBS stands for Vacation Bible School, would you allow me to take just a moment and enlarge on VBS to see some other significant parts of what VBS can stand for?

VBS can stand for the **Very Best Solution**. VBS began in the late 1800s and almost from the very beginning has had the blessings of God upon it as an excellent way to present Jesus to children. For many of the children who attend it is not the only time that they hear about the Savior, but VBS is one of the most significant evangelistic outreach efforts in Southern Baptist churches year after year. Why would it be the very best solution for presenting the Light of the World to children living in darkness? For one thing, it is a concentrated effort. It is usually a week or so in length and it is a day-by-day presentation of biblical truths.

In addition to being concentrated, it is contextual. By that, I mean it is designed for the children at their level, their interest, their points of engagement, and their understanding. I certainly am aware that there are some churches that have a Vacation Bible School that includes everyone from the youngest to the oldest. However, generally speaking, the materials that are used in

Vacation Bible School are designed for the presentation of God's truth to the young heart. Because it draws millions of kids into an experience of biblical understanding and literally thousands are brought to Christ each year, VBS can stand for the **Very Best Solution**.

VBS might also stand for **Vital Bible Saturation**. To this very day, there are things that have continued with me throughout my life's walk with the Lord in ministry, all because of VBS and **Vital Bible Saturation**. I know the 66 books of the Bible. I know the Ten Commandments. I can quote many verses at the snap of my fingers, and it is not because I graduated from a Baptist college or attended two of our Baptist seminaries. It is because I went to Vacation Bible School. In retrospect, I probably passed the courses in college and was able to communicate some things in seminary because of what had taken place many years earlier in VBS — **Vital Bible Saturation**.

As you prepare for VBS and anticipate a school that you may be a part of in 2008, let me give you one other interpretation of those letters. They can mean **Victorious Blessed Service**. Oftentimes in preparation for Vacation Bible School, it is difficult to get people to agree to serve, teach, work, and lead. If you have an opportunity to be a part of Vacation Bible School in whatever capacity, you will do yourself a disservice if you do not sign up, line up, and serve. If you find a place to serve in Vacation Bible School, at the end of the week you will have experienced not just from the kids, not just from the programs and activities, but also from the hand of God, **Victorious Blessed Service**.

So let me encourage you to get in on the blessings. If you agree to serve and you do not experience blessings from heaven, I would like to hear from you. On the other hand, if I can nudge you, gently push you, and encourage you to serve and get in on the blessings, and God does touch your life and use you, I would like to hear from you also.

VBS is just around the corner. May God open the windows of heaven on your life and bless you immensely.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.



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MS POSITIONS

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VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, VAIDEN, Miss., is seeking a full-time associate pastor/youth minister. We are a thriving church seeking God's man to minister to students and families. If you are interested or know a great prospect please contact us at 662-464-5275, fcmat41589@aol.com, 501 Mulberry Street Vaiden, MS. 39176.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC, Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to personnel committee, 712 McAllister St., Greenville,

MS 38701, or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Vicksburg, Miss., seeking individual for full-time minister of music. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attn: personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to IBC_personnel@yahoo.com or contact Michael Bull at 601-218-5325.

TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, Ridgeland, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for pianist. Please send resumes to TRBC, personnel committee, P.O. Box 2726, Ridgeland, Miss. 39158.

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC: Gillburg Baptist Church, Gillburg, Miss., searching for a minister of music. Mail resumes for this position or the interim position to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601-542-1230.

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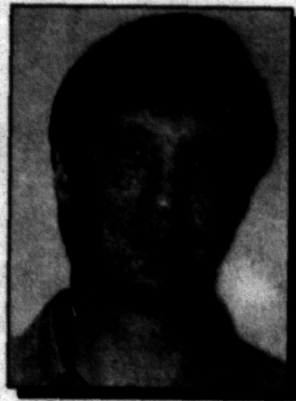
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 7

A New Day, A New Website: www.Christianaction.Com

By Rob Chambers, consultant
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

Several years ago my mother told me about technological changes she had seen over her lifetime. She was born in 1930 and grew up in rural, North Mississippi. As a young girl, horse and wagon was their mode of transportation. As she grew up, she saw the popularization of the automobile and airplane. She also experienced the development of the television, microwave, and computer chip, and when she saw her first television in a store window, she thought it was going to be a fad item.

Now, nearly all households have a TV set, and many would argue that computers are a necessity for communicating in our society. Well, computers and the Internet are not an absolute necessity, but they do make communication on a broad scale less expensive — especially when compared to rising postage rates! Since the Internet — like televisions — doesn't look like it's going away, the



Chambers

Christian Action Commission has launched a new website to enhance communication. The new site — www.christianaction.com — is more comprehensive in content on ethical issues and has a tremendous capability for communication in several different ways, including blogs.

Many ethical issues plague communities across Mississippi. Sometimes Christians are left speechless when asked questions about an issue like stem cell research or global warming. Christianaction.com has a database and links on issues like these.

When arriving at the site, the homepage has a series of tabs across the top and "Issues" is one of them.

Once you click on "Issues" the following categories appear: Christian Citizenship, Christian Home Life, Church & State, Gambling, Origin of Life, Sanctity of Human Life, Sexuality, Social Issues, and Substance Abuse.

When visiting any category you'll see a host of related information that would be a great resource for a Sunday School teacher or youth leader.

Historically, Baptists have stressed that separation of church and state is a principle of religious liberty. The Christian Action Commission works with local and state governments and Congress to assure that legislation does not violate this principle. Additionally, the Christian Action Commission assists Mississippi Baptists in contacting and interacting with various agencies of government as needs arise.

Christianaction.com helps Baptists do that. Oftentimes, people do not know who their elected officials are or how to contact them. Determining who they are has been simplified by selecting "Voice Your Values" on the homepage. Here visitors will be able to enter their zip code and see who their local, state, and federal elected officials are and their contact information.

There's even a place under this section where someone can become a Mississippi registered voter, or watch Mississippi Senate and House legislative sessions live via webcasts. Site visitors will also be able to view the status of proposed and pending state legislation.

Christianaction.com will also be able to keep Christians aware of and informed on critical issues. The

"Action Alert" section on the home page invites visitors to join a network of Christians concerned about the welfare of their state and community, and those who sign up to receive the online "Newsletter" will be updated on popular issues in the state.

Christian Mississippians can also submit a story of how they or someone they know has made a difference in the life of another. This could be about an individual or a church group.

There's enough negative in the media; visit the site, submit your story, and let's give the Lord the glory by communicating what He is doing through Christians in Mississippi.

There are many other features of the site like learning how to pray for, give to, and serve others. Visit www.christianaction.com and see how you can be informed and make a difference in the lives of others.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3331 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 331. E-mail: rchambers@christianaction.com.

Early-start Pastors Conference features special movie screening

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Pastors planning to attend the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors' Conference in Indianapolis June 8-9 will need to arrive earlier this year, according to Pastors' Conference President Michael Catt.

In an unusual move, the Pastors' Conference will open early — on Sunday afternoon — to screen Fireproof, a new movie on unconditional love and covenant marriage produced by Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga.

"The SBC pastors will be the first large group of people to see a screening of Fireproof before it is released in September in about 1,000 theaters around the country," said Catt, pastor of Sherwood Church, which produced two earlier movies: Flywheel, and the well-received Facing the Giants.

"This is the first time the Pastors' Conference has screened a movie and we've only started the conference on Sunday afternoon a handful of times in the last 40 years," Catt said.

This year's Pastors' Conference will focus on a call to prepare for revival and the outpouring of witness and ministry that results. Gathering under the banner, Prepare for Rain, participants will focus the role of prayer and brokenness in spiritual renewal.

"What we've done at times is we've hit our preachers over the head and said we need to be more evangelistic, but the reality is we don't have praying churches that are longing for revival," he said. "If there's not prayer and brokenness in revival, our churches are not going to do a better job of evangelism because carnal people don't have a burden for lost people."

Working from that premise, each of the four conference sessions will focus on an element of that process: prayer, brokenness, revival and evangelism, Catt said.

Hosea 10:12 — "Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord..." — will set the stage for the Sunday evening session on June 8. Featured speakers will be Johnny Hunt of First Church in Woodstock, Ga., Daniel Simmons of Mt. Zion Church in Albany, Ga., and Tom Elliff, senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations at the International Mission Board.

The three June 9 sessions will begin with a morning focus on Jeremiah 18:6 — "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand...."

Alan Day of First Church in Edmond, Okla., and former pastor of First Church, McComb; Hayes Wicker of First Church in Naples, Fla.; George Harris of First Church in Kerrville, Texas; and Ed Litton of First Church in North Mobile, Ala., will be the featured speakers.

During Monday afternoon's session, James T. Draper Jr., former president of LifeWay Christian Resources; Southern Baptist evangelist Bill Stafford; Stuart Briscoe of Telling the Truth Ministries; and James MacDonald of Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, Ill., will speak on the theme of revival.

The scriptural context for those messages will be Isaiah 64:1 — "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down...."

Matthew 9:37 — "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" — will be the final session's theme Monday evening. Charles Lowery, president of the Lowery

Institute for Excellence; Kerry Shook, pastor of Fellowship of the Woodlands in Houston; and evangelist Jay Strack will deliver messages on evangelism.

A 40-day prayer guide is available at www.sbcpc.net to help pastors prepare spiritually for the conference.

Catt hopes the conference will be a time for renewing the spirits of pastors

who are struggling. "The Pastors' Conference needs to be for guys who are rolling into town on four flat tires, ready to resign," he said. "I'm praying that God so moves in that room that it's no longer about where are we going to eat but it really stirs the hearts of every man and woman in that room toward doing something different for God."

Sisters Who Really Care slate meeting for May 17 at Lauderdale Association

JACKSON (Special) — Sisters Who Really Care, a Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) program based on the national wMu's own Sisters Who Care program, will host a special conference May 17 at Lauderdale Association headquarters in Marion. The theme for the conference is Running the Race, based on Hebrews 12:1-3, and 2nd Timothy 4:7.

"Sisters Who Really Care, like the national Sisters Who Care program, is a call for all women of all cultures to discover ways to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission together," said Kathy Burns, state women's consultant in the Mississippi wMu Department.

Debra Berry, women's consultant for national wMu in Birmingham, will be the keynote speaker. Paula Hemphill, women's mobilization consultant for the International Mission Board of the

Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., will host a special Prayer Tea Experience.

Featured testimony will be provided by Annie Shirley, a Sisters Who Really Care special worker from Jackson. Melanie Banis of Star Church, Star, will provide special music.

The conference will begin at 9 a.m. on May 17, and conclude at 1 p.m. There is no childcare available. There is no admission charge, but Burns is encouraging each attendee to bring with them a woman of a different culture with whom to share the conference.

For more information on the conference or the Sisters Who Really Care program, contact Burns at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3324 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 324. E-mail: kburns@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Clark-Venable Church, Decatur



2. Naomi class, Harmony Church, Laurel



3. Broom ordination, Edna Church



4. Deacon ordination, Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



5. WOM, First Church, Pascagoula

1. Keith Carpenter, left, shows a piece of his Bean's Ferry Pottery to women from Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, during a recent Ladies Night Out program at the church. Carpenter presented a program, Sermon on the Potter's Wheel.

2. The Naomi class of Harmony Church, Laurel, was recognized by the church Mar. 30 with corsages and a luncheon. The class made 963 contacts during 2007-08. Shown are the participants.

3. Edna Church, Marion Association, recently ordained Paul Broom as deacon. Shown are Broom and his family.

4. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, recently ordained Rod Bosarge as deacon. Shown, third and fourth from left, are Bosarge and his wife Wanda.

5. The WOM of First Church, Pascagoula, met Apr. 8 to sew dresses, shorts, and tops to be sent to the LaSalle Mission House in Jena, La. Shown are the participants.

6. The Women of Faith, First Church, Potts Camp, hosted its 4th annual women's conference Apr. 18 - 19. Cheri Holcomb, featured speaker.

7. Ladies of Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko, make pillows for area nursing home residents. Shown are the participants.

8. Students from First Church, Richton, participated in the first ever county-wide DiscipleNow weekend Feb. 20 - 23. Shown are the students.

9. Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, hosted the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Apr. 13. Jon Stubblefield, pastor.

10. The "Hebron Kids" of Hebron Church, Bentonia, presented their Easter performance, Peter Cotton's Tale. Shown are the participants.

11. The children of First Church, Plantersville, are shown with the Easter cross they made during Wednesday night TeamKids.

12. Steele Church, Forest, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are pastor Reggie Williams, Jason, Chrisy, and Aubrey Mitchell.



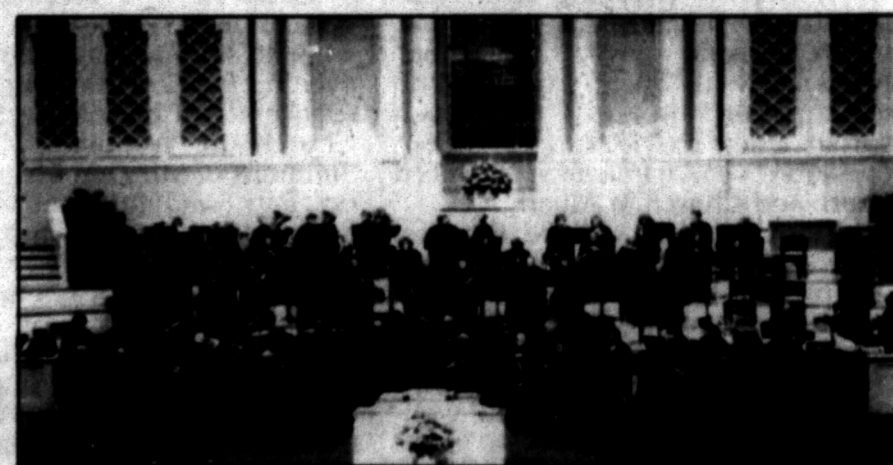
6. Women's conference, First Church, Potts Camp



7. Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko



8. Students, First Church, Richton



9. Main Street Church, Hattiesburg



10. Hebron Church, Bentonia

JUST FOR THE RECORD

13. Zachery Thomas, member of Cub Scout Pack 64 in Lexington, received his Cub Scout God and Me Program award Apr. 27 at First Church, Lexington. Shown, front, is Thomas; back, Mike Thomas, Mike O'Brien, and Kelly Thomas.

14. Allan Harris has released a CD, I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy, which is available through the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board, or from Harris at (662) 234-1101 or 801-6874.

15. The puppet ministry of Tangipahoa Church, Summit, The Master's Hands, is performing Come on and Praise Him at several churches in the area. Booking dates are still available. For information on dates, location, or booking, contact Roger or Lynda Robertson at (601) 567-0052, 341-1312, or 684-1314.

16. John Lee, a second-grade RA at Bethany Church, Prentiss, won the state of Mississippi overall championship at the annual RA Royal Racer Pine Derby State Race at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko. He is now eligible to compete in the National Race in Indianapolis, Ind., in June. Shown are Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Men's Ministry consultant Don Gann and Lee.



12. Baby dedication, Steele Church, Forest



13. Zachery Thomas, First Church, Lexington



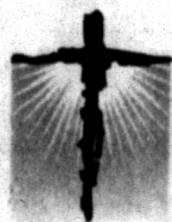
16. Gann and Lee

17. Walt Grayson, author and WLBT's former weatherman, hosted Sunrise Church, Carthage's, wild game supper in March.

18. Fishers of Men Ministries is sponsoring a Legacy Series Adult/Junior bass fishing team event at the Ross Barnett Reservoir May 3 and June 21, with Friday, 6:30 p.m., registration at the Bass Pro Shop in Pearl. Entry fees, \$75; membership, \$25/team. For more information, call Jim Phillips, North Greenwood Church, at (662) 453-2801.

19. Neely Church, Neely: Harvest service May 12, 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker and music; J. Wilbur Hall pastor; for information, call (601) 947-7690.

20. Sallis Church, Sallis, will host a gospel singing featuring Long Way To Go June 29, 5 p.m.



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21. On April 21, the Executive Committee of North Delta Baptist Association celebrated the 30th Anniversary of service as a Mississippi Associational Director of Missions for M. C. Johnson. Dinner was served, and then the business session was conducted by the Moderator, Robert Lenair. Lenair gave the opportunity for those who wished to speak to do so, and several accolades were given. He was then presented a Certificate of appreciation for his many years of service. Following the meeting was the reception with Anniversary cake, coffee and fellowship. Johnson served for 28 years as pastor of churches in Louisiana, Maryland, Alabama, and Mississippi prior to becoming an Associational Missions

Director. He served 6-1/2 years in Holmes-Leflore Assn., and has been Director in North Delta Association for 23-1/2 years. He serves as Executive Director of the Association, the Crisis Ministry Center and the Crisis Pregnancy Center. He has been married for 57 years to Helen, who serves as his Administrative Assistant, and Mission Strategist for the Association. They have 2 children, Sharon and Tony, and 6 Grandsons.

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Youth Speaker's Tournament Results

The following Students participated in the Youth Speaker's Tournament at Blue Mountain College April 26. There were 24 students registered from 19 churches and 17 associations. There were 18 actual participants. The preliminary round consisted of six participants in three groups. The top two speakers from each group were named as finalists and participated in the final round.

Group A (from left)

Brandon Holloway, First Church, Clinton, Metro Association
Austin Moore, Oakhurst Church, North Delta Association
Rebecca White, First Church, Brandon, Rankin Association
Julie Norvell, New Salem Church, Tishomingo Association
Rachel Lentz, Arkabulta Church, X-tended Missions Network
Brittani Clark, First Church, McComb, Pike Association



Group B (from left)

Whitney Thompson, New Liberty Church, Scott Association
Bethany Allen, Clarksdale Church, North Delta Association
Ian Hammond, Wade Church, Jackson Association
Beth Ann McCormick, First Church, Clinton, Metro Association
Hanna Sizemore, First Church, New Albany, Union Association
Ben Cunningham, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, Lee Association



Group C (from left)

Adrian Gordon, Bethlehem Church, Jones Association
Lauren Hester, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, Lee Association
Hannah Harrell, First Church, Pontotoc, Pontotoc Association
Marshall West, Crossgates Church, Brandon, Rankin Association
Ruth Ann Broom, First Church, Biloxi, Jackson Association
Kristen Mitchell, Ridgecrest Church, Madison, Metro Association



Finalists (from left):

Rebecca White
Ruth Ann Broom
Beth Ann McCormick

Brandon Holloway
Hanna Sizemore
Lauren Hester



Scholarship Winners (from left):

Ruth Ann Broom, Fourth Place
Hanna Sizemore, Third Place

Brandon Holloway, Second Place
Lauren Hester, First Place

BIBLE DRILL

1. **Standing Pine Church, Walnut Grove** recognizes its children's Bible drillers and Bible Buddies. Shown, from left, are Hailey Jamison, Alex Wilcher, Abbie Scott, Bo Wilcher, and Alex Shepard. The church also recognizes its youth drillers; shown are Derek Smith and Aaron Shepard.
2. **Agricola Church, Lucedale**, recognizes its children's and youth Bible drillers who participated in the state drills in Hattiesburg.
3. **Agricola Church, Lucedale**, recognizes the youth who qualified for the Quick Drill. Shown are Dawson Flowers, Kelsie Smith, Miranda Freeman, and Emma Harris.
4. **Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are participants in the youth drills, children's drills, and Bible Buddies.
5. **Friendship Church, Grenada**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front row, Emily Davis, Mallory Pounds, and Cassidy Darbonne; middle row, Chad Aurell, Daniel Giles, and Courtney Self; Scott Graham, Mitch Davis, Lyle Cole, and Rycha Perry.
6. **First Church, Taylorsville**, recognizes its state Bible drillers. Front row: Abby Jordan, Nikki Hankins, Paul Sullivan, and Luke Ishee; back row: Kayla Shelby, Alex Blakeney, Katelyn Harrison, and Blake Hall.

CORRECTION: In last week's issue, Adam Rigdon was inadvertently identified as a member of First Church, Sharon. Rigdon is a member of Antioch Church, Neshoba County. The Record regrets the error.



1a. Standing Pine Church children's drillers and Bible Buddies



1b. Standing Pine Church youth drillers



2. Bible drillers, Agricola Church, Lucedale



3. Agricola Church, Lucedale, Quick Drill qualifiers



4a. Pleasant Hill Church, Lucedale, youth drillers



4b. Pleasant Hill Church, Lucedale, children's drillers



4c. Pleasant Hill Church, Lucedale, Bible Buddies



5. Friendship Church, Grenada



6. First Church, Taylorsville

Mississippi Baptists

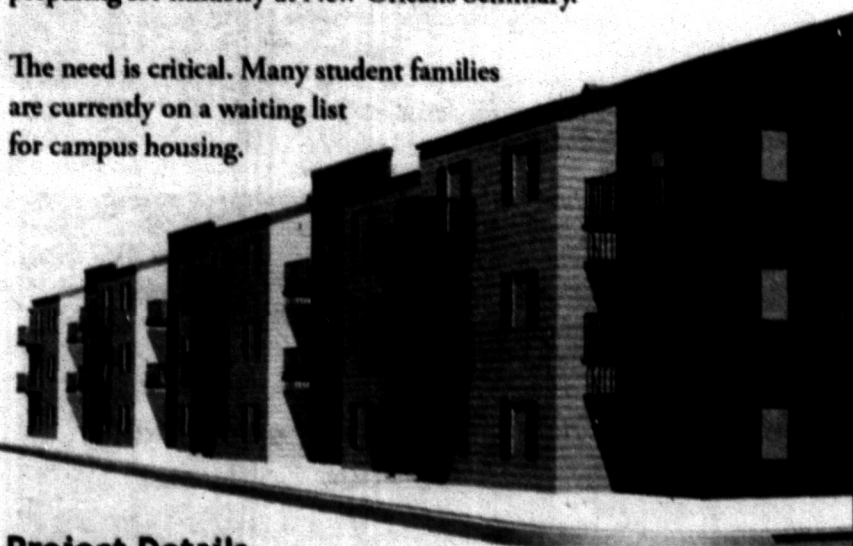
Giving Back to New Orleans Seminary

The Mississippi Manor Project at NOBTS

The Mississippi Manor Project was launched by a group of Baptists in Picayune and is designed to provide funding for a new apartment complex at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Since Hurricane Katrina, when 92 campus apartments were damaged beyond repair, the seminary has faced a housing shortage. Mississippi Manor will provide 36 two-bedroom apartments for student families preparing for ministry at New Orleans Seminary.

The need is critical. Many student families are currently on a waiting list for campus housing.



Project Details

- Cost of Construction: \$5 million
- Building Area: 34,050 SF
- Construction time: 9 months
- Apartment Size: 830 SF
- Sponsor an apartment: \$139,000

Can you help meet this critical need?

For more information about Mississippi Manor or to give to the project, contact Tom Boone in Picayune 1 800 426 1886 or msnobts.bellsouth.net





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Just as the Lord protected Jabez and blessed him with an enlarged territory to meet his needs, so has the Lord continually enlarged the territory of The Baptist Children's Village to meet very specific needs for Mississippi children and families. We acknowledge His generous blessing on this Mother's Day and praise Him for His great wisdom and provision.

Anticipated Completion of Wayne County Campus

2009

Anticipated Completion of Winston County Campus

2008

Received Robbins Campus, Columbia

2007

Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep {me} from harm that {it} may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10

Received Reedy Acres Campus, Water Valley

1984

Received Deanash Campus, Wiggins

1982

Received Dickerson Place Campus, Brookhaven

1980

Since 1897 The Baptist Children's Village has been available to families in all 82 counties in Mississippi. Now, in 2008 the ministry is more accessible than ever to children and their families who need us. The anticipated addition of two new campus positions us within 50 miles of 74 counties and within 75 miles of 81 counties.

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1897

Moved to India Nunnery Campus, Flag Chapel Road, Jackson

1945

Acquired Farrow Manor Campus, Coldwater

1975

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Unlocking Your Best Relationship: Improving Our Communication Skills

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Samuel 14:23-24, 28-33;
Proverbs 4:3-6

By Rick Henson

Have you ever heard a sermon, but only listened to part of it? You initially paid attention to the preacher, but somewhere during the sermon introduction you began to think about something else. Your thoughts initiated a chain of ideas that led away from the sermon, and, before you knew it, the sermon ended. You looked around and wondered what the preacher said.

You heard the sermon in that the sound waves struck your eardrums, yet you did not listen. Your eyes were on the speaker, and maybe your head

was tilted to one side as if you were focused. Yet you received less of the sermon than a three year old crawling under the pews.

Listening and hearing are not always the same. In Deuteronomy 6:4 God said, "Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One." The Hebrew word translated "listen" in the Christian Holman Standard version is translated "hear" in the King James and New American Standard versions. The original Hebrew word, shema, means to hear a voice, and the implication is to listen and obey.

Since Deuteronomy 6:4-9 begins with this word, it is

Henson

known to this day as the Shema. Jesus quoted from it in Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:29, and Luke 10:27. Paul wrote in Romans 10:18 "But I ask, 'Did they not hear?' Yes, they did: Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world." Like the Jews in the time of Christ and most people today, many heard, but they chose not to listen.

God told Israel in the Shema, "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." In other words, listen and obey these words, and intentionally teach them to your children.

Communication is essential to our relationship with God and in our obedience to God. We hear the word and are

saved, and we speak the word and others are saved. Romans 10:17 teaches, "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ." As we must listen to God's word and respond in order to be saved, we should also pass that privilege on to others.

Several decades ago I served as pastor of a church in another state. Within a few weeks of my moving to the church, a member's husband died and I went to her home to comfort her. She and her husband had been married for over sixty years, yet when I asked her about his relationship with the Lord, she told me that they never talked about it. I asked her, "How could you live with him for sixty years and never talk about it?" She shook her head sadly and said, "We just never got around to discussing it." I did not know what to say to her.

Just as the wise father taught his son in the book of Proverbs, we have an obligation to teach our family members the truths of the Lord

Jesus Christ. Proverbs 4:20-21 teaches, "My son, pay attention to my words; listen closely to my sayings. Don't lose sight of them; keep them within your heart." Most of the book of Proverbs is the instruction of a father to his son.

Ephesians 6:4 reads, "And fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." If we do not teach our children how to live, the world will teach them, and they will be worldly. If we instruct them about Jesus, most will receive Christ into their hearts. When we are silent about the Lord Jesus, we teach our children that He is not worth mentioning. We teach by what we say and by what we chose not to say.

James 1 instructs us to be a doer of the word, not only a hearer. That is the difference between hearing and listening. Hearers only hear, but listeners obey. Are you listening?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Work Toward Reconciliation

Genesis 44: 1-2, 32-34; 45:1-9, 14-15

By Marion Duncan

The famine was still severe in the land, and the chosen family had eaten all the grain they bought from Egypt on their first trip. Jacob told them to go back, but Judah reminded him, "The man warned us solemnly, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'" (Genesis 43:3-NIV) Judah responded to his father that either Benjamin would go with them, or none of them would go. He, then, made a pledge to his father, "I myself will guarantee his safety . . . (43:9) Jacob was persuaded to let Benjamin go and outlined a plan. (43:11-14). Jacob may have remembered how he gifted his brother Esau to soothe any angry feelings he might have toward him. (See Proverbs 21:14)

When Joseph saw Benjamin with his other brothers, he

ordered the steward of his house to prepare a fine meal for them. (43:16-17) This was an undeserved feast—like the gospel, unmerited favor. The brothers were afraid because the silver, payment for the first grain, had been returned in their sacks along with the grain. They did not understand what was happening. (43:18) They did not know Joseph. They had lived separate lives until the famine forced them to seek grain in Egypt. They did not think alike nor did they act the same way. He was lord of the land; they were his servants. They were like an unregenerate man in the presence of holy God. What were they to do?

The brothers talked to Joseph's steward and tried to explain the reason for their fear and concern. He desperately sought to dispel their fears,

encourage their faith, and assure their future. Even though they had ignored the true God and had lived wicked lives, they realized the grace of the living God was all around them. (43:19-24)

While waiting for Joseph to arrive for the meal, the brothers prepared the gifts they had for him. With the formality of an unfamiliar situation, they greeted Joseph with the gifts and bowed to the ground before him. Joseph asked them about their aged father and heard that he was alive and well. (43:25-28) Joseph's demeanor with them was gentle and caring just as God is never in a hurry, but allows the Holy Spirit time to do thoroughly the work of conviction in bringing genuine repentance.

"As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, 'Is this your youngest brother...? God be gracious to you, my son.'" (43:29-31) Overcome with deep

emotion at the sight of Benjamin, Joseph sought a private place and wept. Joseph wept over his brothers' coming to him; Jesus wept over Jerusalem's not coming to Him.

At the meal, the Egyptians ate separately from the Hebrews, and Joseph sat with his brothers placed before him in their birth order. They looked at each other in astonishment. (43:32-33) Who was this man? In the custom of honoring a favored guest, Benjamin's portions were five times greater than the others. (43:34)

Joseph ordered his brothers' silver returned again to their sacks with the grain and his silver cup put in Benjamin's sack, also. (44:1-2) He did this partly out of love for his father, and partly "because his brothers had once conspired in hate against (him); now he conspired in love against them." (Exploring Genesis)

Joseph sent his steward to interrupt his brothers' journey and question them concerning the disappearance his silver cup. "Why have you repaid good with evil?" (44:1-5) Certain of their innocence, they

protested. Their honesty in returning the silver was their defense. They vowed if one of them had the cup, he would die, and the others would become Joseph's slaves. The steward looked into each of their sacks, and in the last sack—Benjamin's sack—found the silver cup. The brothers passed Joseph's final test when they loaded their donkeys and returned to Joseph's house to face the consequences with Benjamin. (44:13)

Judah was the spokesman for the family expecting to bear Joseph's wrath. "What can we say to my lord? ...God has uncovered your servants' guilt." (44:16) Judah's humility and confession were received by the gracious forgiveness of Joseph, paid for by his suffering at their hands—a picture of Christ.

In the presence of his brothers alone, he said, "I am Joseph...Come close to me." (45:3-4) He realized God meant all these things for good—a covenant promise, first given to Abraham, the father of God's chosen people.

Duncan is WMU director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

LifeWay sets summer camp expansions at two facilities

GLORIETA, N.M.(BP) — Expanding on the success of Ridgecrest Summer Camps near Asheville, N.C., which are running at nearly 100% capacity, LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center is preparing to hold its first summer camps in New Mexico's Rocky Mountains.

As with the Ridgecrest camps, Glorieta Summer Camps are made up of two separate camps, Camp Glorieta for Boys and Camp Glorieta for Girls, for youth ages 7-16. Both the Ridgecrest and Glorieta facilities are owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Our focus is to develop boys and girls physically, mentally, socially and spiritually while honoring Christ in all that we do, having a great time while doing it and providing a camp

program of excellence," said Hal Hill, director of LifeWay Summer Camps and Glorieta Conference Center.

Activities will be designed with each specific age group in mind. As is the case at Ridgecrest, staffers go the extra mile by taking time with campers when they need a friend, patiently teaching new skills and calling or e-mailing them during the school year just to check in, Hill said.

"The staff's goal is for each camper who comes through our gates to know that he or she is loved unconditionally. We want our campers to know that God has created each of them as individuals, with different gifts and traits that only they possess," he said.

For more information call (866) 794-CAMP or visit www.glorieta-camps.com.

STATE CHANGES

1. **Janice Church, Janice** has called Marc Williams as pastor. Shown are Lacie Williams, Joy Williams, Williams, and Haley Williams.



1. Williams family

2. **French Camp Church, Choctaw Association,** has called Randy Bridges as pastor. He and his wife Michelle have two daughters, Rebecca and Kelsey. He previously served at Stewart Church, Webster association.



2. Bridges family



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Causeyville Church, Meridian: Homecoming, May 18, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch. Corey Fontan, speaker; Susan and David England, music.

Concord Church, Booneville: Homecoming and Mother's Day, May 11; program, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

Souenlovie Church, Enterprise: Homecoming, May 25; singing, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Wesley Higginbotham, speaker; Corey Vermilyea, pastor.

Leflore Church, Leflore: Homecoming, May 18; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and music at 2 p.m.; Harold Danley, speaker; Heavenly Journey, music; Larry Livingston, pastor.

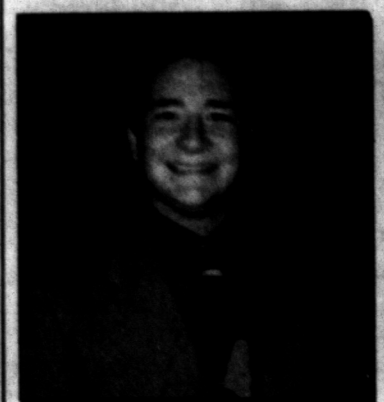
Bellevue Church, Pontotoc Association: Homecoming and revival, May 18 - 21; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon congregational singing; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ken White, speaker; Sandra Smith, music; Tommy Inmon, pastor.

COLLEGE NEWS

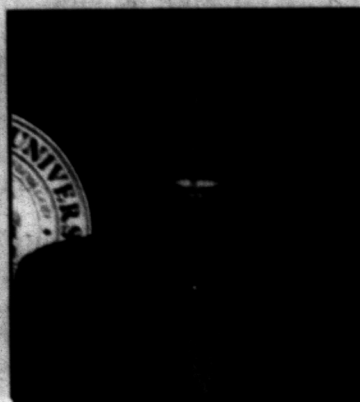
1. **William Carey University** students were honored at the annual Honors Convocation held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. Sarah Knox of Amory was recognized as the President of the BSU. She is pictured here with (left to right) Adrian Strickland, assistant director for the BSU and Tim Glaze, director of the BSU.



1. Knox, Strickland, and Glaze



2a. Olson



2b. Enyioha

2. **William Carey University** students were honored at the annual Honors Convocation held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. Tommy King, president of WCU, presented the Jenkins Chastain Citizenship Award to Chineme Enyioha of Nigeria and Matthew Olson of Waynesboro. The highest honor given by the university, it recognizes students who have

made the most significant contributions to student and campus life in exemplifying those qualities of citizenship upheld by the university. Enyioha, who will attend Yale Medical School in the fall, also received the Senior Science Award. Her father, Bennett Enyioha, president and associate professor of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria, will be the graduation commencement speaker on May 10.

3. **Five William Carey University** music students received awards at the Mississippi State National Association of Teachers of Singing competition held at Belhaven College in April. Elizabeth Goff of Moss Point; Suzanne Adcock of Crestview, Fla.; Jennifer Hayes of Hattiesburg; Mary Whipps of Diamondhead; and Christopher Napier of Laurel received awards. (Front left to right) Sarah Robinson of Laurel; Bethany Ingram of Winter Park, Fla.; (middle left to right) Jaime Smyth of Hartselle, Ala.; Jennifer Hayes of Hattiesburg; Suzanne Adcock of Crestview, Fla.; Elizabeth Goff of Moss Point; Katie Boyer of Slidell; (back left to right) Tony Keeler of Lumberton; Jillayne Campbell of Pensacola, Fla.; and Jonathan Langan of Jasper, Ala. Not pictured are Michael Ginn of Kokomo; Tyree Howard of Tylertown; Christopher Napier of Laurel; and Mary Whipps of Diamondhead.



3. Carey music students

4. Classroom teachers throughout North Mississippi will have an opportunity to sharpen their classrooms skills on June 10 when **Blue Mountain College** offers a one-day conference on teaching integrated lessons. Gloria Corro from Mississippi State University will be the keynote speaker and join with faculty members from BMC, University of North Alabama, Delta State University, William Carey University, as well as classroom teachers from Alcorn, South Tiptah, Lee and Marshall county school districts for the presentations and conference. The deadline for the \$35 early registration fee is June 2, and on-site registration is \$45. The conference will begin at 8 a.m. and will include three concurrent sessions covering 15 topics. Lunch is also included in the fee and teachers will receive one-half a continuing education unit (CEU). Contact the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education: (662) 678-4771 extension 238 or continuingeducation@bmc.edu.

5. Forty-two **William Carey University** students were named Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for the 2007 - 2008 school year. The students, selected as national outstanding campus leaders, come from the Gulfport and Hattiesburg campuses of Carey.